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Public Hearing Testimony
February 23, 2011
Labor & Public Employees Committee
Len Fasano, State Senator, 34th District

Re: SB 363 – An Act Allowing Minors to Work in Family Businesses

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Rigby and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 363 – An Act Allowing Minors to Work in Family Businesses

Under existing law, in Connecticut, minors who are over 14 are allowed to work as a caddie or in the pro shop of a golf club. Minors who are over fifteen are allowed to work as a bagger, cashier or stock clerk. The law has additional restrictions in place on the number of hours that minors may work and also on the days they may work. These restrictions were put in place to ensure that minors who are employed would not jeopardize their education.

If passed, this bill would allow minors who are over 14 to work in their parent's retail business or restaurant if the parent consents to the employment. The restrictions that currently apply to minors who are employed would also apply to minors working in their parent's business.

Allowing minors to work in their family's businesses would teach them not only responsibility, but also it would help to instill in them the values that will ensure that they will become productive members of society. Working with their parents will also expose these youth to a side a businesses that many do not experience. These youth will have an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of running a business, like meeting a payroll.

In closing, I would like to thank the co-chairs for their willingness to raise Senate Bill 363 this session. I sincerely hope that the committee looks favorable on this bill so that it can make its way through the legislative process. Thank you.